

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01172 120906Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 H-03 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

DODE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 DRC-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 /151 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0526

CONFIDENTIAL TRIPOLI 1172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG LY

SUBJECT: OIL NATIONALIZATION: QADHAFI REMARKS TO NEWSMAN

1. AFTER WAITING HERE TEN DAYS, NEWSWEEK EDITOR DE BORCHGRAVE RECEIVED AN HOUR'S INTERVIEW WITH QADHAFI SEPT 11. THERE BEING NO PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETER PRESENT, QADHAFI FINALLY TRIED TO EXPLAIN HIMSELF IN ENGLISH. PERHAPS FOR THIS REASON, HIS PRESS SECRETARY LATER DEMANDED TO "SEE THE STORY" BEFORE DE BORCHGRAVE LEAVES TOWN. DE BORCHGRAVE REPLIED THAT "THERE WAS NO STORY" AND INTERVIEW SHOULD BE RESCHEDULED UNDER PROPER CONDITIONS AND AT GREATER LENGTH.

2. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY, REQUEST THE FOLLOWING RUN-DOWN ON WHAT QADHAFI HAD TO SAY ON OIL BE TREATED WITH DISCRETION. DE BORCHGRAVE BRIEFED ME IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INTERVIEW AS FOLLOWS:

A. IN REPLY TO HIS LEAD QUESTION ON HOW OIL COULD BE USED AS A WEAPON, QADHAFI REPLIED THAT LIBYA'S RECENT NATIONALIZATIONS WERE NOT AN INSTANCE OF THE USE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01172 120906Z

OF OIL AS A WEAPON. THEY WERE ECONOMIC MEASURES TO

SECURE CONTROL OF LIBYA'S RESOURCES. ANY NEW POLICY TO USE OIL AS A WEAPON IS FOR ALL THE ARABS TO DECIDE. THUS LIBYA'S NATIONALIZATIONS WERE NOT PRESSURE ON THE U.S. THIS COMES IN THE FUTURE. THE ARABS WILL USE OIL AS A THREAT. AS OF NOW THE THREAT HAS BEEN POSED, NOT EXECUTED. "IT WILL BE USED IF THE U.S. DOES NOT ACT IN ITS OWN INTERESTS."

B. IN REPLY TO A REQUEST TO COMMENT ON KING FAISAL'S REPORTED THREAT TO REDUCE PRODUCTION TEN PER CENT, QADHAFI SEEMED TO BE GENUINELY UNAWARE OF THE STORY TO THAT EFFECT. HE DID GO ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE U.S. LIBYA DID NOT WANT TO PROVOKE IT. THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD NOT COLLABORATE. BUT LIBYA MUST OF COURSE USE ITS OIL TO FURTHER ITS PURPOSES, AND WOULD HOPE THAT ITS EXAMPLE MIGHT BE NOTED IN THE GULF.

C. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION RE HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE MAJORS' PULLING OUT OF LIBYA, QADHAFI REPLIED THAT WAS UP TO THEM. "WE DON'T DEMAND 100 PER CENT. BUT IF THEY WANT TO SURRENDER, OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD TAKE IT."

D. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION AS TO WHAT "FURTHER MEASURES" AGAINST THE MAJORS HE WAS REFERRING TO IN HIS ALGIERS PRESS CONFERENCE OF SEPT 7, QADHAFI MERELY SAID: "IT IS UP TO THE COMPANIES. THEY MAY LOSE THEIR 49 PER CENT."

E. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION HOW LIBYA COULD COPE WITH THE LOSS OF THE MAJORS' PRODUCTION OF ABOUT 800,000 BARRELS PER DAY, QADHAFI SAID IT WOULD REPRESENT A SETBACK BUT "DON'T FORGET WE CAN OPERATE THEIR INTERESTS HERE; WE ARE ALREADY BEING SOLICITED" (PRESUMABLY BY OTHER COMPANIES).

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